LOS ALTOS HILLS CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

# TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIII No. 3 September 1999

## *Calendar of Events*

September 11, Sat., **Hoedown at Westwind Barn,** 5 –11 PM, BBQ, Square Dancing, Parade of Horses, 27210 Altamont Road, Public Invited, $20/person, Benefit Westwind 4-H and Westwind Barn. Info. 941-6113

September 11,12, Sat., Sun. **Friends of the Library Booksale.** Hillview Community Ctr., Sat., 10-3 PM, Sun. 12-3 PM. Info. 948-1011

September 12, October 29, Monday-Friday 1-5 PM, **Len Knyper, CELEBRATE THE OPERA,** Ceramic Renderings of Opera Characters, West Bay Opera Costume Design Sketches, **Opening Reception, Sunday, September 12, 1999, 2 – 4 PM,** Public invited, Refreshments.

October 9, Saturday, 10-12:30 PM, **Pathways Day Guided Walk, Dedication of the Mary Stutz Pathway.** (See story page 5.)

Sunday, November 7, **Art Reception,** 2- 4 PM. Refreshments. LAH Town Hall Chambers, **Lydia Tkalcevic** will display ceramic sculpture & **Mary Cox** will show watercolors. Public invited.

## COLOR BOARD & POLICY TO BE REVIEWED

On Thursday, September 16, 1999, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, the City Council will conduct a public forum to consider comments regarding the Town's requirements for limiting the exterior color of new homes and roofs. Specifically, the Council will consider whether to retain the Town's current policies and regulations, to modify them, or to eliminate them entirely.

### Intent of Color Limitations

The basic intent of regulating house colors is to provide an additional means of "blending" a home with its environment. Regulations in Town and in some other communities rely on either "earth tone" colors or light reflectivity values (LRV) to suggest darker tones which do not show through vegetation as readily and are not as conspicuous as lighter colors. The Town's existing "color board" limits the exterior color of most new homes to a modest range of colors with limited reflectivity. The Town does not, however, regulate color when re-painting an existing home, so that the main concern is to limit colors until landscape screening grows to better shield the visibility of the structures.

### Options

Several options have been identified to address the exterior color issue:

1. Maintain the existing color board and policy, but specify how long after final approval a house must remain compliant (for example, 3-5 years), to allow time for landscape screening to mature.

2. Expand the colors on the color board, either in terms of the color "tones", such as adding yellow, or by allowing a greater LRV, say 60% instead of 50%.

3. Revise the existing regulations to limit how colors are combined, to limit the gloss as well as the LRV of paint colors, and/or to limit the color and reflectivity of roofing materials.

4. Limit color restrictions to highly visible hillside and ridgeline lots only.

5. Eliminate all requirements for exterior colors on new homes.

6. Eliminate paint color requirements, but retain some limitations on the color and/or reflectivity of roofs and re-roofing.

If you have comments on the above issues, please plan to attend the meeting, or provide written comments to the Planning Department, Town of Los Altos Hills, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022, Fax comments to (650) 941-3160, or e-mail us comments to planning@losaltoshills.ca.gov. For further information, please call (650) 941-7222.

**NOTICE**
**Public Forum**
**Color Board & Policy Review**
**September 16, Thur., 7 PM**
**City Council Chambers**
**at Town Hall,**
**26379 Fremont Road**

**Yard Waste Clean Up at Foothill College**

***Sept. 25th, Oct. 9th, Oct. 23rd, Nov. 13th***
***Info: 650-941-7222***

# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

## REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION FEES

The Council has recently requested that the City Manager review revenues and expenditures for planning, engineering and building to determine if the costs are covered by the fees, or if there is a surplus. In addition, a comparison of fees with surrounding jurisdictions will be provided. This will be submitted to the Council at a September Council Meeting.

## CONDITION OF TOWN HALL BUILDINGS

The goals and objectives for the Town include repairing or replacing Town Hall and the Council Chambers. A report will be coming to the Council showing the costs of repair of the buildings for the most essential needs. This information will be provided to the Council for a September meeting.

## TREE ORDINANCE

Staff will be preparing an ordinance that modifies the municipal code to limit the financial obligation of property owners for trees within the public right of way. Currently the municipal code requires that the abutting property owner be financially responsible for all tree maintenance.

## SEARCH FOR CITY MANAGER

Council has selected the individuals as finalists for the position. References are currently being checked and Council will, hopefully, have a decision by mid-August. It is then anticipated that the individual selected will be able to start by October 1st or November 1st.

## SERVICE REQUEST RESPONSE SYSTEM

The Town staff has provided a method of responding to citizens who call in for service requests. A postcard has been developed which will be mailed to the property owner once the Town has completed the service. This will provide a better communication for property owners who may not be aware that the Town staff has responded to their service request.

## PATHS

During July we continued the maintenance of existing roadside and off-road pathways.

## STREETS

We have completed the clearing and maintenance of all the Fire Emergency Access roads in Town. A contractor has started picking up trash from all the major streets (e.g., Purissima, Altamont, Fremont, Magdalena, etc.) in Town. This will be done on the second and fourth weekends of each month. The Maintenance Crew rebuilt the roadside drainage ditch along Black Mountain Rd.

## Y2K PROGRAM

Staff is taking a proactive role in the identification and remediation of Y2K problems that could impact the operations of the Town. This includes not only the Town's internal computer systems, but also the normal processes in place to secure necessary goods and services for Town operations. An inventory of the Town's hardware and software, as well as a listing of critical service providers, was developed as a checklist early in the Y2K program.

Software updates have been obtained for compliance within the Town's systems. Starting with the interactive financial system, installation and testing of all software is scheduled to be completed in September. Major service providers are being contacted and tested for Y2K readiness as well. Contingency plans are being refined and will be in place by early October.

## PACKARD PROPERTY

The attorney for the Packard Trust has indicated to staff that the Trust intends to submit its conditional use permit application in August. He confirmed that the meeting with neighbors went well and all issues were clarified.

## PACBELL

Pacific Bell has requested an easement on Town property at Purissima and Elena to install an underground vault to provide for additional telephone, fiber-optic, and other communication lines. The easement would measure 60 feet long by 20 feet wide with access from Elena Road. It is expected that Council review will be on September 2.

## PROJECT REVIEWS

The following major project applications are pending to be scheduled for Planning Commission and/or City Council review in the coming weeks or months:

New Residences-19 applications: 13901 Edith (Astiz), 25706 Elena (Driscoll), 27400 Elena (Gheyri), 12150 El Monte (Boyd), 13944 Fremont Pines (Vellequette), 12080 Kate Drive (Robertson), 12180 Kate Drive (Chase/Arnold), 12200 Kate Drive (Dykes/Calderon), 25721 La Lanne Court (Fong), 14475 Liddicoat Circle (Humble), Magdalena & Hillview (Lauer), 27371 Moody Road (Rocchetti/Herdell), 24018 Oak Knoll Circle (Le & Do), 25705 O'Keefe (Varneghi), 24708 Olive Tree Court (Schneider), 27581 Sameul Lane (Wang), 26870 Taffe Road (Lo), and 13769 Wildflower Lane (Bariteau).

Lot line adjustment for LeFevre subdivision is scheduled August 25.

A subdivision of 17 acres into 7 lots, 13310 La Paloma (lands of Evershine Group) will require environmental review, no anticipated hearing date.

*___ WILLIAM B. NORTON*

*INTERIM CITY MANAGER*

# PLANNING DIRECTOR REPORT

### Fast Track Process Approved

On July 1st, the City Council approved a "fast-track" review process for new homes and major additions to existing homes. The Council also approved certain "limitations" to the current site development review process, to minimize the discretion of the Planning Commission and staff to modify proposed projects.

*Curtis Williams, Planning Director*

The "fast-track" review process as approved would be available for projects which are determined to meet all of the Town codes, policies, and guidelines, and which have little or no neighborhood opposition. The Planning Director would provide notice of a public hearing for such projects to all neighbors within 500 feet and, if no substantive issues arise, would forward the project directly to the City Council on a "consent" agenda for approval (no public hearing would be required at the Council). Notice of the Planning Director's decision would be mailed to the same neighbors, and appeal of the project could be made to the City Council. If staff determines that the project does not comply with the Town's codes or policies, or that substantive neighborhood opposition exists, or that there are unique planning issues that need discussion, the Planning Director will schedule the project for review by the Planning Commission.

Limitations" to the current review process are intended to clarify the scope of Planning Commission and staff review and to minimize the extent of "subjective" review. The approved refinements include: 1) a policy limiting the scope of review to **siting** of structures relative to slopes, trees, and neighbors, more so than **design** features of the home; and 2) findings required to justify reductions in height, floor area, or development area, or increases in setbacks.

If you have any questions regarding the ordinance or meeting dates, please contact Curtis Williams, the Town's Planning Director, at (650) 941-7222.

### Class A Fire-Safe Roofing Required

Effective August 14, 1999, all new roofing or re-roofing (in excess of 300 square feet) must be of a Class "A" fire-retardant assembly. This change was made in conjunction with the Council's adoption of the updated Uniform Building and Fire Codes. The Town previously allowed Class "B" roofing as well, which permits some use of treated shingles, but recent advances in technology now allow for Class "A" treated shingle roofing which is feasible and affordable. Please be aware that "re-roofing" requires a building permit from the Town. If you have questions about roofing requirements, please contact the Planning or Building Departments at Town Hall at (650) 941-7222.

# PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT AND STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FY98/99

The Town of Los Altos Hills recently finalized its list of streets for this year's Pavement Management and Storm Drain Improvement Project. The following is a list of the streets affected with the proposed treatments.

The following streets will receive 6" of new pavement:

| STREET | FROM/TO |
|---|---|
| Robleda Road | Fremont/Elena Road |
| La Cresta Court | La Cresta Drive/End |
| New Bridge Drive | La Paloma Road./End |
| Alto Verde Lnne | Concepcion Road1/End |
| Corte Madera Lane | Concepcion Road/End |
| Mandoli Drive | Arastradero Road/End |
| Nina Place | La Cresta Drive/End |
| Roble Veneno Lane | Concepcion Road/End |

The following streets will receive a slurry seal pavement treatment: Alicante Lane, Estacada Way, Foothill lane, La Lanne Court, Miranda Way, Rancho Manuella, Saltamontes Way, Springhill Drive, Torello Lane, and Wild Plum Lane.

All traffic legends for the streets in this year's project will also be repainted in addition to installation of blue fire hydrant reflectors.

Th Council recently awarded a contract to Granite Construction Company for $765,579. This year the Town received an allocation of $164,269 for road maintenance from the sales tax being collected in Santa Clara County as a result of the Measure A and B election. For more information contact Ola Balogun, Associate Civil Engineer at Town Hall, 941-7222.

# CLEAN STREETS CAMPAIGN

The Town Safety Committee asks residents to help keep our streets clean. Please pickup litter that you see as you walk along. If everyone helps a little bit, the Town will continue to be a beautiful place to live.


## Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government.
The 1999 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December.
Deadline for the next issue is October 30, 1999.
**Internet Address: www.losaltosonline.com/lah**

**About Our Publication**
The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.
Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price
Associate Editors: Barbara Lamparter, Linda Seidel

**Los Altos Hills City Council**
• Elayne Dauber, Mayor • Steve Finn, Mayor Pro Tem
• Toni Casey • Bob Johnson • Bill Seigel

Recycled Paper

*PROFILE OF YOUR GOOD NEIGHBORS*

## Growing Kids in the Garden

Here in the Hills, the large lots provide ample space to grow as much of a garden as one can handle. A garden designed especially for children can grow more than just fresh vegetables.

For small children, magic grows in the garden. It is a wondrous place where a short hunt in the strawberry patch can yield sweet treasures and where new surprises are found at every turn. It is a special place where children can work together with their parents, watering, pulling weeds and digging in the dirt. It's a secret place where kids can hide in the corn stalks, watch squirrels and birds and pick flowers.

*Amanda and Tony in the melon patch*

**Vince and Diane Zunino** started a kid's garden for their first child, **Amanda** when she was one year old. "We started with a strawberry patch, cherry tomatoes and some raspberries," says Vince. "Things she could pick and eat on the spot. She could eat a dozen cherry tomatoes in one trip to the garden."

"We already had apricot, cherry, fig, plum and apple trees on the property. We added peaches, pears, and oranges. They all ripen at different times and with the garden fruits we plant each summer, it is like an Easter egg hunt for the children all summer long."

"Two years ago, our twins, **Tony** and **Olivia**, arrived and the garden started getting bigger. We added pumpkin, corn, sugar snap peas, melons and table grapes - all high on a kid's fun scale. We only grow fun vegetables," Vince adds with a smile. "You won't find any spinach or rutabaga in our garden. These are definitely not fun."

"This year Amanda, who is now five, planted carrots, lettuce, cucumbers and squash from seed and we added a bean pole teepee in the front garden. Amanda helped pick and prepare her first salad from the lettuce she grew and the twins became expert strawberry pickers."

*Tony in the corn patch*

"The children eat snap peas off the vine like candy and won't let me go to the garden unless I take them," Vince says. "Tony loves to water and Olivia likes to sit on the tractor and supervise. Later in the season, we will harvest the corn and the kids will carry it to the house like pirate's booty. Shucking the corn is great fun but hazardous because Olivia will eat it before we get it to the pot."

Growing a garden in the hills can be challenge. In addition to the small animals, bugs and birds which like to share in the garden's bounty; the heavy clay soil seems more suited for brick making than growing vegetables. "I use lots of compost in the garden areas and use cover crops in the winter to add fertility to the soil and suppress weeds," says Vince.

"Cover crops help lock up nutrients that would be washed away in the winter rains, adds organic matter when worked into the soil, and can provide some spring color as well. I use Crimson Clover, Austrian Winter Peas and Purple Vetch to build nitrogen, Fenugreek, which helps open heavy soils, and Buckwheat, which mines phosphorus. All of these plants when turned under help build a garden friendly soil. A field of Crimson Clover provides an awesome display in the spring."

"I really started the garden for the kids," says Vince. "It turned out I was one too. For all of us kids, the garden is place to play, eat, learn and grow."

*Ed. Note: The Zunino's are not only wonderful parents and gardeners, but are great role models for the community. Vince and his neighbors, Charlie Doherty, Bill Hahn, Pete Henderson, and Al Morris maintain the median strip on St. Francis Drive (West of Fremont Road). I suggest that you follow the progress of the Zunino's garden by watching it grow. The beanpole teepee and pumpkins should be at their peak in September and October. Their garden is at the SW corner of St. Francis and Ascension Drive.*

ART INVITE
THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING OPENING RECEPTION AT
TOWN HALL
TO VIEW THE ARTWORK,
SOCIALIZE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,
MEET OUR LOCAL ARTISTS,
AND ENJOY GOURMET REFRESHMENTS.

RECEPTION
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1999
2 - 4 PM
KEN KNYPER
CELEBRATE THE OPERA
CERAMIC RENDERINGS OF OPERA CHARACTERS
WEST BAY OPERA COSTUME DESIGN SKETCHES

EXHIBITION DATE
SEPTEMBER 12, 1999 - OCTOBER 29, 1999
MONDAY-FRIDAY 1 - 5 PM

## PARKS. . . IN LOS ALTOS HILLS?

Well, not quite. . . . but Los Altos Hills does offer two unique "preserves" that provide numerous recreational opportunities right here.

The biggest preserve is **Byrne Preserve**, which is located along the upper length of Altamont Road and connected to numerous Town paths. Byrne Preserve comprises several generous land donations. These include: 54 acres obtained through a donation by Albert M. Byrne to the Nature Conservancy; 25 acres given by Countess Betty Byrne Dezahara; a 15-acre parcel containing **Westwind Barn**, donated by Countess Margit Bessenyey; and other small parcels obtained through development agreements and gifts.

Numerous town pathway connections link to trails inside of the Preserve. It can be accessed from Altamont Road, Moody Road, Bryne Park Lane and Central Drive. If accessing the Preserve by car, park at Westwind Barn (27210 Altamont Road) and take one of several paths leading from the Preserve. Once inside the Preserve, hiking, jogging, horseback riding and bird watching opportunities abound. Soon picnic tables will be available for picnickers. Westwind Barn offers numerous equestrian programs including the 4H handicapped persons riding program (Westwind Riding Institute). A trip to Byrne Preserve offers incredible views of rolling hills and trails along densely wooded creeks. A hike in the Preserve will transport you to the rural nature of old Los Altos Hills.

The second preserve is **Juan Prado Mesa Preserve** located near the Quarry subdivision. It can be accessed by pathways from Stonebrook Drive, Kate Drive in the new Quarry subdivision or Dawson Drive. A bench dedicated to Mary Stutz is located on the path offers a nice place to rest while walking through the Preserve. The path meanders from the entrance on Stonebrook Drive through the Juan Prado Mesa Preserve along Hale Creek.

To help navigate your way to the Byrne Preserve or Juan Prado Mesa Preserve and the numerous Town pathway connections to it, pick up a Pathways Map for $2 from Town Hall.

*— Scott Vanderlip for the LAH Parks, Recreation and Pathway Committee*

### PATHWAYS DAY - JOIN US FOR A WALK IN THE HILLS!

Mark your calendars for October 9th for the next pathways walk. Join members of the Los Altos Hills Pathways Committee at 10 AM for the dedication of the Mary Stutz Pathway. Mary Stutz was a tireless volunteer for our town for over 25 years. She chaired the Pathways Committee for two terms and was on the Planning Commission for 12 years. The Pathway named in her honor goes from Stonebrook Drive through Juan Prado Mesa Preserve to Dawson Drive.

Following a brief ceremony, the walk will commence. You can expect to return between noon and 12:30 PM. The Community Relations Committee will provide refreshments afterwards. Regardless of your age or ability, you will enjoy this opportunity to exercise, to see another "gem" of our beautiful community and to meet new neighbors.

Meet at the entry to the Mary Stutz Path on Stonebrook Drive between Prospect Avenue and the entry to the Quarry subdivision at 10:00 AM. Bring water, wear appropriate shoes, and be ready for an enjoyable outing. Hikers and equestrians are welcome. Information: 949-4837.

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES NEED A RIDE?

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) contracts with Outreach for ADA paratransit services. ADA Paratransit services are specialized door-to-door transportation services for persons with disabilities who are unable to use regular bus and light rail services because of their disabilities.

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that public transit systems like VTA provide paratransit services. Residents of Santa Clara County who are interested in obtaining information about paratransit services or, in becoming certified to use the service, should contact Outreach to request an application for ADA Paratransit. It takes Outreach approximately 21 days to process a completed application.

Once an individual is certified for ADA paratransit service, reservations for service can be made by contacting Outreach. For regular service the customer pays a fare of $2.50 for each one-way trip, for trips that have been scheduled in advance. VTA has authorized Outreach to provide same-day service on a pilot project basis. A fare of $12 is charged for same-day service. Contact Outreach, M-F, 8 AM-5 PM, (408) 436-2665.

## COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Have you ever considered joining one of the Town's Volunteer Committees? At this time there are openings in three committees.

- Environmental Design and Protection Committee
- Safety Committee
- Joint Volunteer Awards Committee

Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, and CA 94022 during regular office hours (8 AM to noon; 1-5 PM). For additional information and a list of the charges and duties for any of these committees, please call the City Clerk, Pat Dowd, at 941-7222.

## FREE MEDIATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

Have a conflict? Try free resolution services available to Los Altos Hills residents. For disputes between neighbors, tenants and landlords and issues involving consumers and the workplace, call the Los Altos Mediation Program at 949-5267.

## Growing Kids in the Garden

*"A garden designed especially for children can grow more than just fresh vegetables."*

*--- Vince Zunino, Father & Gardener*

*(See profile on page 4)*

*Tony, Amanda and Olivia Zunino enjoying their beanpole teepee.*

**Town of Los Altos Hills**
**26379 Fremont Road**
**Los Altos Hills, California 94022**

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